Income from railway freight

1412. SHRI JIBON ROY: *Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:*

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared on 27th September, 2000 in the Times of India, under the caption, "Rly. chug alongwith the load of catchwords";

(b) whether it is a fact that real income from railway freight collected during the first four months was below the budget projection; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Freight earnings of the Railways to end of July, 2000 is Rs.7725.27 crore which is Rs.64.94 crore more than the proportionate target of Rs.7660.33 crore for the period.

(c) Does not arise.

Commercial utilisation of railway property

1413. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS *be pleased to state:*

(a) whether the Railways utilise its property for commercial activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the landed properties owned by the Railways are leased out for constructing permanent structures;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount earned by Trivandrum Railways Division during the current year, from commerical utilisation of its property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Railways have, with a view to supplement its internal resources for implementing its development schemes, decided to utilise air-space over its properties, for commercial use.

To begin with, certain station buildings and vacant plots of land in prime areas have been identified for development as station-com-commercial complex or office or residential-cum-commercial complex where, after meeting